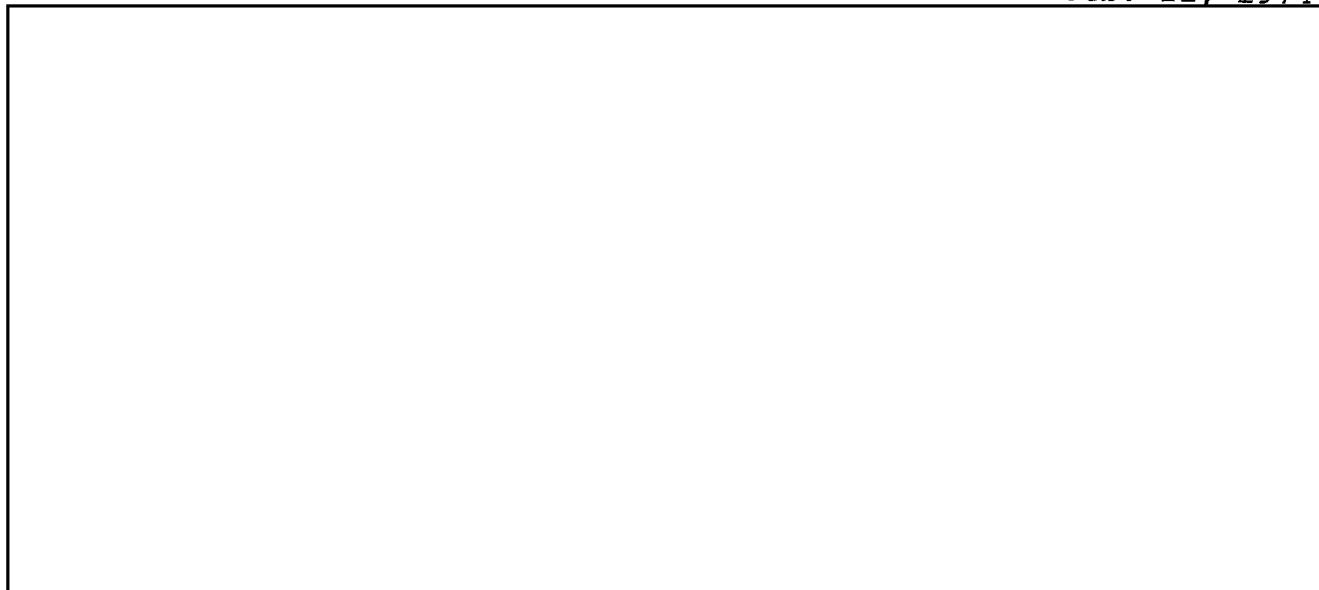


#18

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

Feb. 21, 1974

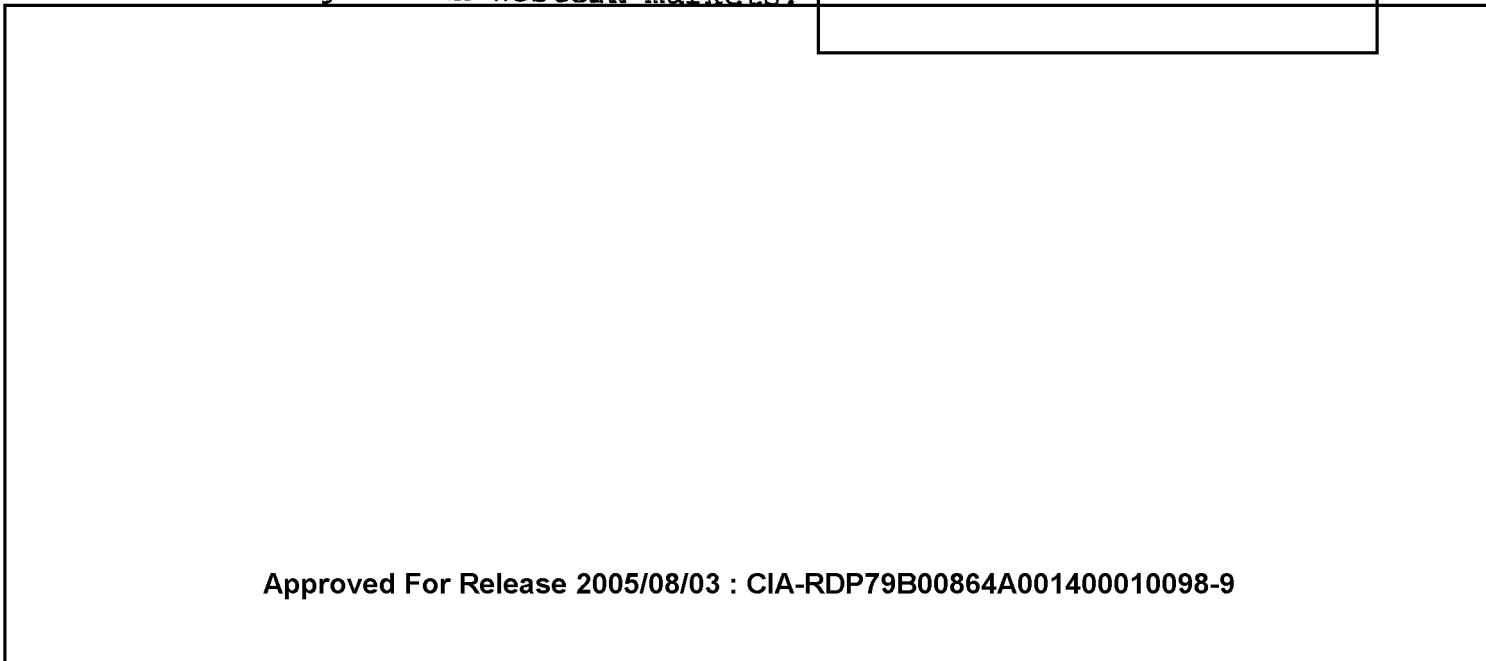
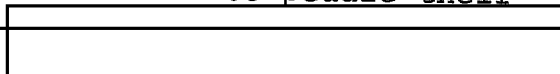


POLAND

Mixing Coal and Politics

The Gierek regime has temporarily suspended coal deliveries to the UK following a direct plea by British communists for a show of solidarity with striking miners. A Polish spokesman has hastened to add, however, that Warsaw will fulfill its contract for half a million tons of coal this year once the British crisis is ended. In private, "the sooner, the better" is doubtless the sentiment of Polish export officials, who are anxious to peddle their "black gold" in Western markets.

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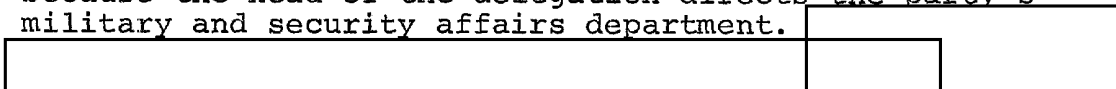
HUNGARY

Touring Laos

A Hungarian party delegation that spent last week in Communist-controlled areas of Laos was probably taking readings on current local politics. A new coalition government, which includes the Communists, is scheduled to be set up there in the near future. Any substantive bilateral discussions would likely have focused on military matters because the head of the delegation directs the party's military and security affairs department.

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